

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 10, 1999

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 5, 1999

SENATE BILL

No. 1066

Introduced by Senator Bowen

February 26, 1999

An act relating to telecommunications.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1066, as amended, Bowen. Telecommunications.

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission is vested with regulatory authority over the public utilities, including telephone corporations. Existing law sets forth legislative findings and declarations regarding telecommunications policies for California.

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations relating to telecommunications.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and
2 declares all of the following:
3 (a) Both California policy and federal policy have
4 encouraged the rapid deployment of advanced
5 telecommunications services and capabilities to all
6 citizens, institutions, and businesses.

1 (b) High-speed connections between the
2 telecommunications network and end users are critical
3 for consumer acceptance of important new
4 telecommunications services, including electronic
5 commerce, telemedicine, distance learning,
6 telecommuting, video telephony, and television.

7 (c) California's consumers, businesses, and institutions
8 will benefit significantly from expanded competition and
9 enhanced availability of high-speed services provided
10 over communications networks.

11 (d) Competition in providing high-speed services can
12 be expanded, thereby lowering prices and increasing
13 availability, if existing telephone service providers are
14 required to permit competitors to share in the use of
15 existing telephone lines, known as line sharing

16 (e) In March 1999, the Federal Communications
17 Commission (FCC) tentatively concluded that line
18 sharing is technically feasible. The FCC further
19 tentatively concluded that nothing prevents California
20 from requiring line sharing. ~~The FCC cited an example~~
21 ~~where Pacific Bell is today sharing the use of its telephone~~
22 ~~lines.~~ While operational issues have yet to be resolved,
23 the FCC appears to be supportive of line sharing.

24 ~~(f) Therefore, pending the FCC's resolution of the~~
25 ~~technical and operational issues, it is the intent of the~~

26 (f) *Therefore, if the FCC resolves the technical and*
27 *policy issues related to line sharing and determines that*
28 *line sharing is feasible, it is the intent of the Legislature*
29 *that the California Public Utilities Commission open a*
30 *proceeding to determine how best to implement line*
31 *sharing. If the FCC determines that line sharing is not*
32 *feasible, then it is the intent of the Legislature that the*
33 *state not adopt regulations that are contrary to that*
34 *determination.*

